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# Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Television Coverage of the  
Proceedings of the  
Legislative Assembly

1st Session 33rd Parliament  
34 Elizabeth II



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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS  
AND AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

COMITE PERMANENT DES QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE  
ET DES ORGANISMES, CONSEILS ET COMMISSIONS

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

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The Honourable Hugh Edighoffer, M.P.P.,  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Sir,

Your Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions has the honour to present its Report and commends it to the House.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Michael J. Breugh'.

Michael J. Breugh  
Chairman

Queen's Park  
3 September 1985

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Clerk of the Committee

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
The Television System	3
Staff	9
Lighting	10
Sound System	12
Cameras	13
Closed-circuit Monitors	14
Role of the Committee	16
Installation	16
Test Period	19
Location of the Television Broadcast Unit	20
Access to the Speaker's Gallery	21
Televising Committee Proceedings	25
Distribution	27
Captioning, Signing and Translation	31
Summary of Recommendations	33
Schedule "A"	
Appendix "A" - Legislative Television in Saskatchewan: Summary	
Appendix "B" - Saskatchewan Legislation Assembly Television System Overview Ritenburg & Associates Ltd.	
Appendix "C" - TVOntario Correspondence Respecting Captioning, Signing and Translation	
Appendix "D" - Witnesses Appearing Before the Committee	





## Introduction

On Wednesday, 10 July 1985, the Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions was established for the duration of the Parliament, among other things, to "review and report to the House its observations and opinions on the operation of the Standing Orders of the House and such additional matters as may be referred to it by the House or by Mr. Speaker from time to time."

When the motion establishing the Committee was debated, one of the matters which was raised as a subject for study by the Committee was that of television coverage of the proceedings of the Assembly. The work of the Committee in this regard was also discussed at a meeting of the Board of Internal Economy which was attended by the Chairman of the Committee and at which the funding for the Committee's work on the subject was approved.

The Committee met on ten occasions to consider this matter. It visited the House of Commons in Ottawa and the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in Regina to see at first hand the television systems in place in those two jurisdictions and to discuss their operation with members and staff of both legislatures. While in Ottawa and Regina, the Committee had an opportunity to see selected extracts of the proceedings of both Houses. This was extremely useful in bringing to the attention of the members of the Committee some of the concerns with the "electronic Hansard" rules applied in both jurisdictions. The Committee is most grateful to all those persons who have provided such valuable assistance throughout its enquiry.

The Committee has taken as its starting point the decision of the Board of Internal Economy on 15 July 1985 to approve in principle an in-house operated television broadcast system for the Legislature. The Committee's function has been to consider and make recommendations to the House with respect to the following: type of system to be installed; lighting; factors affecting installation of the system and the distribution of the signal; guidelines for the coverage of the proceedings of the House and its committees; and access of the Legislative Press Gallery television crews to the Speaker's Gallery after a television system has been installed. The Committee has been conscious of the role of the Board of Internal Economy in approving sufficient funds for the purchase, installation and operation of a television system. However, the Committee feels strongly that members must play an active and continuing role in matters involving the televising of the proceedings of the Assembly. The installation of a television system will have a tremendous effect on the members' work place and on members' working conditions. It is the intention of the Committee to ensure that the best possible system is in place, one with which all members can live and be comfortable, one which will treat all members equally regardless of their location in the Chamber, and one which will provide an accurate, factual and coherent record of the proceedings in a format which can be easily understood by the public.



## **The Television System**

The Committee supports the decision of the Board of Internal Economy approving in principle the installation of an in-house operated television broadcast system for the Legislature. The Committee believes, however, that the House should endorse this decision and provide for complete coverage of the proceedings of the Legislature from 'gavel to gavel'. Complete coverage of the proceedings in the Chamber will provide a fair and complete account of the work of the House. It will show not only the oral Question Period but will record all of the other business which transpires each day. It will not just highlight certain members, it will offer coverage to all members of the Assembly. Bringing the proceedings of the Legislature to the citizens of Ontario will serve to increase their knowledge in the work of their representatives and of our parliamentary form of government.

Your Committee recommends that:

1. **A television broadcast unit be established as an office of the Office of the Assembly to record, reproduce and provide a continuous unedited transmission of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly beginning with the Speaker's Parade and Prayers and ending with the adjournment of the House.**

The Committee was particularly impressed with the television broadcast system which has been installed at the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. As opposed to the system in place in the Canadian House of Commons, the Saskatchewan Legislature has installed an automated switching system. The

system is a complete colour television production and video recording facility which is integrated with the Hansard sound system.

In the Saskatchewan Legislature, five remotely-controlled, compact professional grade television cameras, of high quality, are fitted into recessed areas of the Chamber walls. One camera is recessed in each of the four corners of the Chamber and one camera is recessed into the woodwork over the entrance to the Chamber. The cameras move silently and are without the red tally lights which indicate that a camera is recording. These cameras were not obvious to members of the Committee sitting on the floor of the House. The Committee was particularly impressed that the system has been installed without noticeably affecting the appearance of the historic interior of the Chamber.

Two of the five cameras are manually remote-controlled and are used for alternate shots for variety, for broad applause shots and for panning during recorded divisions. The other three cameras are controlled by a microprocessor, programmed with predetermined camera shots. When the Speaker is addressing the House, the camera facing the dais is on. When the Speaker recognizes a member, the audio switcher activates the member's microphone. This automatically activates and positions the appropriate camera. The Committee was very interested to learn that it takes less than two seconds for the automated cameras to get into position and focus on a member.

The names and constituencies of members are stored in a character generator bank and the information with respect to the member speaking is automatically brought on to the screen for five seconds. From time to time, information is displayed across the screen which explains the proceedings. At the end of each



day's proceedings, to provide for a coherent presentation, the names and ridings of all members of the Assembly and the names of the Table Officers and of the staff of the television broadcast unit are displayed on the screen with accompanying background music.

A television control centre is located in a former broom closet adjacent to the Chamber to accommodate three operators and the facilities necessary to monitor, process, control, distribute, duplicate and technically evaluate all television and recording materials originating with the system. The dimensions of this room are seventeen feet by eleven feet. However, the Committee was advised by the Director of Television Services that a room, seventeen feet square, would be preferable to accommodate maintenance equipment and to locate the control panel further away from the monitors, thereby lessening eye strain.

Audio and video feeds are provided to the Government and opposition caucuses, as well as to the Press Gallery, to permit the recording of the proceedings for their own purposes. The parliamentary television signal is distributed via a fibre optics network owned by Sask Tel from the Legislative Building to the the Sask Tel television operation centre. From there it is distributed to Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton, Melville, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Prince Albert and North Battleford where it is broadcast live on cable television. Service to Weyburn and Estivan will be added in the Fall of 1986. These centres account for approximately fifty per cent of the population of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Proceedings such as the Speech from the Throne and the Budget Debate have been broadcast live by the television networks. Most broadcasters in the



Province have access to a daily feed and use segments of the House proceedings on their newscasts.

Based on its observations and deliberations, your Committee recommends that:

2. The television broadcast system to be installed in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario be a 'state of the art' broadcast quality system similar to the system installed at the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Technical information and a list of the companies involved with the installation of the Saskatchewan Legislature's television system is appended to this Report.

In both Ottawa and Regina, the mandate of the broadcast service has been to provide an electronic Hansard based on principles similar to those that govern the printed official reports of debates; that is, the cameras focus only on the person recognized by the Speaker. Such coverage, in the Committee's opinion, tends to give a distorted view of what is going on and where it is occurring. It is difficult for the viewing public to understand the setting in which a member is speaking and the Speaker presiding.

The Committee believes that it is important that television coverage of legislative proceedings be an accurate, factual and coherent record which is understandable to the viewing public. Although the camera would concentrate on the member who is speaking, the Committee is concerned that the coverage not be so restrictive as to televise only the head and shoulders of the member speaking. The Committee is aware that this will be a matter of considerable

sensitivity and that care must be taken to ensure that coverage does not dramatize or editorialize on the proceedings.

The Committee will propose certain guidelines which will give direction to the Director of Broadcasting. However, the Committee thinks it right to leave the sort of pictures which the cameras would take to the expertise and good judgement of the Director of Broadcasting, allowing the Director a certain degree of professional judgement while acting within the guidelines. It does, nevertheless, encourage the use of wide-angle shots, over-the-shoulder shots and split-screen shots. Further, the Committee proposes that the name, constituency, portfolio and political affiliation, as the case may be, of a member be shown periodically on the screen while the member is speaking, and that factual information be shown in print across the bottom of the screen to explain the proceedings. To assist the viewing public further in understanding the proceedings being broadcast, the Committee recommends that a video cassette as well as a brochure explaining the proceedings of the House be prepared by the Office of the Clerk of the House, in consultation with TVOntario and the legislative television broadcast unit, and that these be made available to interested parties throughout the Province.

Your Committee recommends that:

3. The television coverage of legislative proceedings should be an accurate, factual and coherent record of the proceedings of the Assembly which is understandable to the viewing public, and which is subject to guidelines set out in Schedule "A", and to the instructions of the Speaker or of a committee of the House designated to monitor and advise on the service.

4. The name, constituency, portfolio and political affiliation, as the case may be, of a member be shown periodically on the screen while the member is speaking, and that factual information be shown in print across the bottom of the screen to explain the proceedings.
5. The Office of the Clerk prepare, in consultation with TVOntario and the legislative television broadcast unit, a video cassette as well as a brochure explaining the proceedings of the House and that these be made available to interested parties throughout the Province.

The Committee was impressed by the sophistication and high quality of the Saskatchewan Legislature's television broadcast system. The planning, purchase and installation (including renovation) costs amounted to \$1,510,000 in 1982. The Committee was provided with information which indicated that the current annual operating costs for staff salaries, video tape, distribution and maintenance are \$395,000. Three people are required to operate the system. Since 1 June 1985, the Director of Television Services has been a full-time employee of the Legislature. Prior to that he was a contract employee. Two technicians/operators are retained on contract. A microphone switcher employed by the Hansard office operates an audio switching unit in the Chamber. In comparison, the House of Commons Broadcasting Branch employs thirty-six persons and operates on an annual budget of \$1,451,000. The system was installed in 1977 for approximately \$6 to \$6.5 million. This included planning, purchase, installation and renovation costs but did not include the cost of building the control room above the Chamber.



## **Staff**

Your Committee is of the opinion that a television system, similar to that in the Saskatchewan Legislature, owned and operated by the Office of the Assembly, can be installed without a high initial capital cost and that it can be operated at a relatively low operating cost. The Committee believes that the staff operating the television system should be full-time employees of the Office of the Assembly. As well, the Committee is concerned that when hiring staff to operate the television broadcast system, consideration should be given to ensuring that sufficient staff are retained in order that staff illness, death or resignation does not adversely affect the system. One or two additional persons may be necessary to assist with the operation of the system and to ensure that the absence of any employee, for whatever reason, does not adversely affect the television broadcast system.

In Regina, the Director of Television Services was employed almost from the beginning of the television broadcast project. The Committee believes that it is important that a Director of Broadcasting, who will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the television broadcast unit, be retained as soon as possible to work with persons developing and installing the television system and with the committee of the House acting as an advisory body during and after the installation of the system.

Your Committee recommends that:

6. In order to ensure that staff illness, death or resignation does not adversely affect the operation of the television broadcast system, sufficient staff should be hired as full-time employees

of the Office of the Assembly to operate the television broadcast system.

7. A Director of Broadcasting, to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the television broadcast unit, be retained as soon as possible to work with persons developing and installing the television system and with a committee of the House authorized to act as an advisory body during and after the installation of the system.

### Lighting

The present direct lighting system in the Ontario Legislative Chamber is not acceptable. The inconvenience and discomfort of the glare and heat caused by the intensity of the direct lighting for television purposes led members of the Committee to pay particular attention to the lighting systems in place in Ottawa and Regina. At the House of Commons in Ottawa, the lighting installation provides a light level of sixty-four foot candles. Members of the Committee found that in the back rows on each side of the Chamber, the glare of the lights caused discomfort to their eyes. The Committee also heard similar complaints from persons who have remained in the Chamber for periods of more than one hour. In Regina, banks of fluorescent lights above a skylight in the Chamber's ceiling were replaced with metal halide lamps. As a result, the light level in the Chamber was increased to approximately thirty-five foot candles.

The Committee was particularly impressed with the lighting in the Saskatchewan Legislative Chamber. The members found that this indirect lighting did not produce any glare or discomfort. As well, the quality of the pictures was very

high and was acceptable to members and to representatives of the media. Shadows on the faces of members sitting in the front banks of seats were noticeable. However, the Committee was advised that this could be corrected with the installation of lights in the four corners of the Chamber to diffuse the shadows.

The Committee is aware of proposals for a general restoration of the Parliament Building. As part of this restoration programme, the Committee urges that an alternative lighting system be examined for the Legislative Chamber which would render the high-intensity direct lighting for television unnecessary. The development and installation of such an alternate system must not delay the installation of the television broadcast system nor should it in any way affect the historical and architectural integrity of the Chamber. The Committee is of the very firm opinion that if a temporary television broadcast system is set up which incorporates the present system of direct lighting, the lighting system must be modified to reduce the glare and discomfort. While inconvenient now for short periods of time, such lighting would be unacceptable when the proceedings are televised for the whole day.

Further, as part of the restoration programme, an improved ventilation system should be installed.

Your Committee recommends that:

8. It is imperative that the lighting system to be installed produces the minimal amount of glare and discomfort. The lighting system should be similar to that in place in the Legislative Chamber in Regina. The installation of any



alternate lighting system should not delay the installation of the Legislature's television broadcast system nor should it affect the historical and architectural integrity of the Legislative Chamber.

9. An improved ventilation system should be installed during any general restoration of the Legislative Chamber.

### Sound System

The Committee is concerned whether the sound system already in place in the Legislative Chamber is adequate for the purposes of television broadcast.

Consequently, your Committee recommends that:

10. The Hansard sound system be evaluated to determine if it is adequate to provide a high quality sound feed required for television broadcasting.

Four ceiling microphones in the Chamber of the House of Commons are used to provide "floor sound" when there are pauses in the proceedings of the House. No such microphones exist in the Saskatchewan Legislature, although the Committee was told by the persons operating the system that it is advisable to install them when a television broadcast system is established in the Ontario Legislature.

Provision should also be made for inserting background music from audio tapes on the signal broadcast for special events such as the opening or prorogation of a Session or the end of a Sessional day.

Your Committee recommends that:

11. Microphones be installed in the Legislative Chamber to record floor sound.
12. Provision should be made to install equipment capable of playing music from audio tapes to accompany visual information displayed following the adjournment on each sitting day.

#### Cameras

When the Committee visited Ottawa, it was informed that the House of Commons maintained two extra cameras in case of the failure of any of the seven cameras in the Chamber. The Saskatchewan Legislature has no additional cameras in case of camera failure. The Committee believes that it is prudent to have one or two additional cameras as a back-up in case of mechanical or other failures involving cameras installed in the Legislative Chamber or a committee room.

Your Committee recommends that:

13. A minimum of five remote-controlled cameras, the majority of which are microprocessor-controlled, be installed in the Legislative Chamber. These cameras should be compact professional grade, high quality, television cameras.

14. At least two spare or back-up cameras be purchased and maintained in case of mechanical or other failures involving cameras installed in the Legislative Chamber or a committee room.

#### **Closed-circuit Monitors**

Monitors for viewing the legislative proceedings are provided at various locations in the House of Commons and the Saskatchewan Legislature. At the House of Commons, monitors are installed in the Government and Opposition Lobbies and the proceedings are available to all offices on Parliament Hill via the OASIS network. At the Saskatchewan Legislature, video feeds are provided to the Speaker, the Clerk, the Journals office and the broadcast services' office, as well as to the caucus and Press Gallery offices. Each office must provide its own monitoring equipment. Cable television feeds are available in the Legislative Building and members may subscribe to this service.

The Committee is of the opinion that closed-circuit monitors should be installed in the Government and Opposition Lobbies of the Ontario Legislature and in the Legislative Press Gallery offices, and that television programme signals should initially be provided to the offices of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of any recognized Party, Party caucus offices, and the Clerk.

The Committee was advised that at the House of Commons televisions are provided to each member of the House as part of the OASIS network package.



The Committee is of the opinion that similar service be made available to all members of the Assembly in conjunction with the installation of office automation equipment. The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Members' Services consider this matter.

The Committee believes that closed-circuit monitors should be placed in the front Lobby. As well, closed-circuit monitors should be placed in a room in the Parliament Building where visitors not going into the Galleries can observe the proceedings and be provided with an audio and/or visual presentation on the work of the Legislature and its members.

Your Committee recommends that:

15. Closed-circuit monitors be installed in the Government and Opposition Lobbies and in the Legislative Press Gallery offices, and that television programme signals initially be provided to the offices of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of any other recognized Party, Party caucus offices, and the Clerk.
16. That closed-circuit monitors be placed in the front Lobby.
17. Closed-circuit monitors be installed in a room in the Parliament Building where visitors can observe the proceedings and be provided with an audio and/or visual presentation of the work of the Legislature and its members.

## **Role of the Committee**

The Committee is strongly of the opinion that a committee of the House should act as an advisory body during the installation of the television broadcast system, to receive regular progress reports and to deal with any questions which may arise during that time. Once the system is in place, the Committee believes that the same committee should act as a forum in which the problems of presenting the proceedings of the House in a balanced and accurate manner can be discussed and resolved. Such a committee would deal with concerns of members referred to it by the Speaker, with concerns of the media, broadcast companies and the public, and would conduct periodic reviews, at least on an annual basis, of the guidelines regulating the televising of proceedings.

Your Committee recommends that:

18. The terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions be broadened to permit it to act as an advisory body during the installation of the television broadcast system and to authorize the Committee to conduct reviews, at least on an annual basis, of the televising of the legislative proceedings and of the guidelines with respect thereto, and/or such matters or concerns with respect to the system as may be referred to the Committee by the Speaker.

## **Installation**

The Committee firmly believes that the televising of the proceedings of the Legislature should proceed without unnecessary delays. The technical possibility

of installing a television facility on short notice and for an interim period of time has been demonstrated by the coverage of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Social Development on Bill 30.

The Committee recognizes that factors such as the availability and delivery of equipment may cause delays. However, the Committee does not feel that the operation of the system should be delayed because of installation or renovation requirements. Any such delays may be overcome by the installation of a temporary system which can be maintained until the permanent system is in place. This was done in the House of Commons.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 19. A television broadcast system be in place and operational during the Second Session of the Thirty-third Parliament.**

When the Speaker appeared before the Committee, he advised the Committee that consideration was being given to installing a fourth tier of desks on both sides of the Legislative Chamber. The Committee agrees that it may be desirable to install a fourth tier of desks given the close proximity of members' desks on the Opposition side of the Chamber and the lack of an adequate and safe means of leaving the desks at the north end of the Chamber. Every attempt should be made to resolve the question of seating in time for the start-up of the television broadcast system.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 20. The placement of desks in the Legislative Chamber should ensure that no member is placed at a disadvantage in terms of**



**television coverage and every attempt should be made to resolve the question of seating in time for the start-up of the television broadcast system. This matter must not delay the installation of a television broadcast system.**

The Committee was particularly impressed with the way in which the cameras in the Legislative Chamber in Regina were installed. As noted above, the cameras are recessed into the walls of the Chamber and painted black. The recessed areas are also painted black and red tally lights on the cameras are not operational. It is, therefore, difficult, if not impossible, for a member to know which camera is recording his or her involvement in the proceedings. This installation has been accomplished without noticeably affecting the appearance of the historic interior of the Chamber.

The Committee favours the installation of television cameras in recessed wall openings in the Ontario Legislative Chamber as opposed to cameras mounted on the walls. The Committee recognizes that this may be difficult to accomplish but prefers this over the way cameras have been installed in the House of Commons in Ottawa. The Committee considers it extremely important that the system should be installed without noticeably and adversely affecting the appearance of our very beautiful and historic Chamber.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 21. Every effort be made to install television cameras in recessed wall openings to preserve the appearance and the historic features of the Legislative Chamber. The Standing Committee**

**on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions should be consulted on all major alterations to the Chamber relative to the installation of the television broadcast system.**

The Speaker also raised a concern involving the location of the audio switching console and the ability of the switcher to see adequately which member is speaking. The Speaker suggested that the audio switching console may have to be moved to the centre of the Speaker's Gallery. This is a matter which the technical experts will have to consider and advise upon.

#### **Test Period**

The Committee wishes to recommend that there be a trial period of at least one month before the signal of the legislative proceedings is made available to the broadcast media. The Committee sees a distinct advantage in such a trial period. It would give the staff of the television broadcast service an opportunity to develop a knowledge of the workings of the House and to iron out any technical problems which may arise. It would also give members and officers of the House an opportunity to evaluate the system and their performance before the signal is distributed.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 22. There be a trial period of at least one month before the signal of the legislative proceedings is distributed to the broadcast media in order that both technical and procedural aspects of the system may be evaluated.**

### **Location of the Television Broadcast Unit**

In Ottawa, the television control centre is located to the back of and above the Chamber while in Regina it is adjacent to the Chamber.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 23. A television control centre capable of accommodating all of the television and audio and recording equipment and necessary staff be located in an area which is adjacent to the Chamber.**

In making this recommendation, the Committee is aware that there are limited areas available in the Parliament Building in which such a centre can be located. Representatives of the Legislative Press Gallery appeared before the Committee to present a brief dealing in part with the space which the Gallery occupies. The Gallery expressed concern that the television control centre may be located in space now occupied by its members.

The Committee recognizes the fundamental importance of the role of the Legislative Press Gallery. This recognition has been exemplified in the setting aside of galleries from which members of the Legislative Press Gallery may view parliamentary proceedings and the provision of office space and access to other facilities in the Parliament Building. However, the Parliament Building is limited in its capacity to serve the purposes and functions of today's Legislature. As the Ontario Commission on the Legislature noted in its Fifth Report in October, 1975; "the legislative demands for space within the building seem certain to grow and, since the space available is finite, someone or something has to go." The Commission noted that it did not seem "provident...that the



Legislature confer any space on the Press Gallery in perpetuity when it is inevitable that the time will come when either the space will not accommodate the Gallery membership, or the legislators themselves will have need of it, or both."

### **Access to the Speaker's Gallery**

The current guidelines which were issued by the Speaker on 28 June 1982 for the television coverage of the Legislative Assembly are as follows:

Television coverage of the Legislative Assembly is permitted for the sole purpose of filming or taping the proceedings of the House.

Under no circumstances is the Legislative Chamber to be used as a backdrop for coverage unrelated to the actual proceedings on the floor of the House.

Eight broadcast organizations are allowed access on a permanent basis to the centre portion of the Speaker's Gallery. Eight permanent positions have been established for their use. These organizations are allowed access at any time the House is sitting.

Two temporary positions have been established at the west end of the Speaker's Gallery. Visiting television stations, cable television stations and television crews on assignment on behalf of the Speaker, members, caucuses or ministries are eligible for access to these positions on application. Access is on a first-come, first-served basis, however, the national television networks have priority over other organizations.

The Legislative Press Gallery in its submission to the Committee, and other television correspondents giving evidence to the Committee, stated that access to the Chamber by commercial cameras should be continued after the installation of a television broadcast system owned and operated by the Office of the Assembly. The Gallery stated:

In practice, our TV members may choose to rely on electronic Hansard, as print reporters do, to give them greater flexibility to cover more angles and more stories.

Nonetheless, the principle of continued access should be upheld.

The gallery supports the installation of electronic Hansard because it can bring more television coverage of the public business of the Legislature to viewers.

However, our concern is that it not interfere with the existing traditional right to access of private cameras, leaving the option to exercise that right.

Members of the Committee expressed concern about television reporters and camera crews attending the proceedings for only part of the day, notably for parts of the oral Question Period, and the disruption caused on occasion by members of the Gallery as they leave the Speaker's Gallery. Occasionally, concern has been expressed about the safety of members and staff of the House due to the possibility of television equipment falling from the Speaker's Gallery. Members have also been concerned with the generally poor quality of pictures taken from the Gallery and about the location of the cameras which ensures good

shots of some members but poor shots of other members. In fact, this inequality created by poor camera angles denies some members the opportunity to be covered at all by the commercial television cameras. Discussion also took place on demonstrations by strangers in the Public Galleries and whether the presence of the commercial cameras, and the possibility that such cameras would record the demonstrations, helped to create these situations.

The Legislative Press Gallery has operated for many years with relative freedom, subject to the guidelines established by the Speaker and to its obligation to see that what it reports is accurate and free from political activity. The Committee does not propose to recommend that access to the Speaker's Gallery by commercial television reporters and camera crews be discontinued once the Legislature's television broadcast system is operational. Nevertheless, the House should retain ultimate control over the broadcasting of its proceedings.

The Committee is concerned that interruptions from the Public, Press or Speaker's Galleries, not being proceedings of the House, should, so far as practicable, not be broadcast by either the commercial television organizations or the Legislature's television broadcast system.

The Director of Broadcasting, employed by the Office of the Assembly, will be responsible for ensuring that the coverage of the legislative proceedings by the television broadcast unit is limited to the strict confines of the floor of the House (except for distinguished visitors in the Speaker's Gallery introduced by the Speaker) and that the cameras do not deliberately record shots of public interruptions or demonstrations or close-up shots of any other areas, including the galleries.



Finally, the Committee urges the members of the Gallery using the Speaker's Gallery to exercise more respect for the House when entering or leaving the Chamber so as not to disrupt the proceedings. One member of the Gallery giving evidence before the Committee suggested that permanent tripods could lessen the disruption. The Committee agrees with this suggestion.

The Committee was also advised that security arrangements require the camera crews and television reporters to leave the Gallery by the East Door. In many instances, there are more visitors on the east side of the Speaker's Gallery and this can cause considerable disruption. The Committee suggests that this matter should be reviewed by officials of the House and other officials charged with making security arrangements for the Legislature, in consultation with the Legislative Press Gallery.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 24. The Legislative Press Gallery continue to have access to the Speaker's Gallery to televise the proceedings of the House, subject to the current guidelines established by the Speaker.**

It is important that there be a forum where the interests of both legislators and the media with respect to television in the House may be discussed and reconciled. The Committee believes that its recommendation that the Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions be authorized and instructed to conduct reviews of the televising of the legislative proceedings will satisfy this concern.

## **Televising Committee Proceedings**

In recent years, unlike in many other jurisdictions, television cameras have been permitted to film the proceedings of standing and select committees meeting in public session provided they do not interfere with the members or staff of the committee, witnesses appearing before the committee or, in general, the work of the committee. In most cases, the cameras have been given the privilege of having access to any part of the committee meeting room.

The Committee points out three instances of such coverage. The proceedings of the Select Committee on Constitutional Reform were recorded and televised by a cable company during the Committee's hearings in Toronto during the Summer of 1980. The proceedings of the Standing Committee on Administration of Justice were filmed by television camera crews during the Committee's hearings on the Re-Mor/Astra Trust matter during the Winter of 1980-1981. However, in this case, because of the confidential or sensitive material which members used during the committee hearings, camera crews were not permitted to enter an area designated for the exclusive use of the members and staff of the Committee. One camera position was designated and the television organizations were responsible for determining the question of access to the position. Cameras were not permitted to film any document used by or in the possession of members, their assistants or the staff of the Committee while such persons were in the restricted area of the committee room. Most recently, a cable television company has broadcast live the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Social Development on Bill 30, An Act to amend the Education Act.

The Committee favours the continued access of television cameras to committees meeting in public. To avoid the possibility of such cameras disrupting the committee proceedings or interfering with the work of the members or staff of the committee or witnesses, the Committee agrees with the recommendation of the Special Committee on Reform of the House of Commons that television cameras from the television organizations be allowed to televise committee proceedings from fixed positions.

The Committee proposes that a permanent television facility, with a minimum of two cameras similar to that installed in the Legislative Chamber, be installed in the Amethyst Room and that it be operated by the television broadcast unit according to the guidelines established for coverage of the proceedings in the Chamber.

Your Committee recommends that:

25. A permanent television facility, similar to that installed in the Legislative Chamber, be installed in the Amethyst Room and that it be operated according to the guidelines established for the coverage of proceedings in the Chamber.
26. The proceedings of any standing or select committee may be recorded and broadcast by agreement of the House leaders.
27. Television cameras from television organizations continue to have access to public meetings of standing or select committees, but that such proceedings be filmed from fixed positions.



## Distribution

The television broadcast unit will be responsible for providing signals, whether direct or recorded, of legislative proceedings to broadcast organizations and others requiring the signals. The purpose of the Committee in considering the means of distribution of the television signals has been to attempt to use all the means at our disposal to ensure that the signal is distributed as widely as possible in order that as many citizens of Ontario as possible have the opportunity to watch the proceedings of their provincial Parliament.

The Committee has considered three options available for distributing the live signals. One option is to transmit a signal to the Bell Canada Toronto Operating Centre for distribution by the company to those wishing to subscribe to the legislative television broadcast signal.

A second option is to transmit the signal by means of an up-link to a satellite channel and a down-link to television and cable companies or other interested parties. At the present time, TVOntario holds a broadcasting licence on behalf of the Government of Ontario and it could apply to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission for a licence to distribute the Ontario legislative proceedings television signal. To provide this service, TVOntario has estimated that the rental of equipment to get the signal from Queen's Park to an up-link and then to the satellite, as well as a back-up facility to prevent signal interruption in case of technical failure, would cost approximately \$255,000 per year. The cost to purchase rather than rent the necessary up-link equipment is estimated to be \$500,000. The rental for a separate transponder on the satellite would amount to approximately \$1 million per year. The signal would then be available to the whole Province from the

satellite, and television and cable companies could pick it up if they are equipped to receive Anik C. Some companies may have all of the equipment necessary to receive the signal from the Anik C satellite. For those that do not have the necessary equipment, the down-link equipment would be approximately \$10,000 excluding installation charges. A satellite dish, receive-terminal, a pre-amplifier and modulator would also be required.

The third option is to transmit on a separate channel the legislative television broadcast signal via ground-based transmitters and repeaters. The signal could then be picked on any regular VHF/UHF antenna.

Your Committee recommends that:

28. The Board of Internal Economy invite TVOntario to put forward proposals to achieve the Committee's goal of ensuring that the legislative television broadcast signal is distributed as widely as possible.
29. Cable companies be encouraged to pick up the signal and broadcast, preferably live, the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee believes that by doing so the cable companies would be performing a valuable public service and helping to communicate to the citizens of Ontario what goes on in their Parliament.

A distribution service of the recorded proceedings should also be made available to members, senior officials of the House, cable companies, notably those not

served by satellite ground station receivers, educational institutions, and groups or individuals authorized by the Speaker upon written request. Such companies, groups or individuals would be required to supply their own tapes to the television broadcast unit which would record the proceedings requested on a priority basis. There would be no charge for this service.

Your Committee recommends that:

- 30. A distribution service of the recorded proceedings shall be made available free of charge to members, senior officials of the House, cable companies, educational institutions, and groups or individuals authorized by the Speaker upon written request, supplying their own tapes.**

TVOntario has advised the Committee that when the signal of the proceedings at the Ontario Legislature is available it plans to broadcast oral Question Period from Queen's Park at 11:30 p.m. rather than the oral Question Period from the House of Commons. Members of the Committee raised the possibility of broadcasting oral Question Period live on each day that the House is sitting. The Committee was advised that such a proposal would disrupt educational programmes broadcast by TVOntario during the afternoon.

The Committee recognizes the importance of such educational programmes. However, the Committee believes TVOntario should investigate the development of an educational programme involving the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and dealing with Ontario's government, politics and history. This could involve broadcasting live the oral Question Period each day the House meets and adding commentary on Ontario's government, politics and history either before



or after the live broadcast. The Committee is of the opinion that the oral Question Period should also be broadcast in the evening to reach that portion of the public not able to watch it during the day.

Your Committee recommends that:

31. **TVOntario investigate broadcasting live the oral Question Period from Queen's Park each day the House meets as part of the development of an educational programme dealing with Ontario's government, politics and history.**

The Committee has considered the question of retaining copies of the tapes for archival purposes. The Archives of Ontario and the Legislative Library have both expressed an interest in securing copies of the tapes of the legislative proceedings for permanent preservation and as a record for research purposes. A third copy should be made and retained by the television broadcast unit, primarily for recording proceedings for distribution to members, cable companies, and so on. This third copy should be erased at the end of each Session.

The Legislative Library already has a viewing facility in place where tapes of the legislative proceedings could be viewed. The tapes of all legislative proceedings should be time-coded to assist in locating particular segments on the tapes.

Your Committee recommends that:

32. **The television broadcast unit make three copies of the televised proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in the Chamber or in a**

committee thereof. The Clerk of the Assembly shall ensure that one copy is deposited with the Archivist of Ontario after the prorogation of each Session. A second copy shall be deposited with the Director of the Legislative Library on a daily basis. Access to these tapes shall be in accordance with procedures established by the Archivist or the Director, as the case may be. Following the prorogation of a Session, the material on the third copy shall be erased.

33. The tapes of all legislative proceedings should be time-coded.

#### Captioning, Signing and Translation

The Committee considered the question of providing captioning, signing and translation services. In Saskatchewan, no provision is made for captioning, signing and translating the proceedings of the Legislature. At the House of Commons in Ottawa, the CBC provides simultaneous signing in French and English but only during oral Question Period. There is no provision for either closed or open captioning. Simultaneous translation of all proceedings is provided in the French and English languages.

TVOntario provided information to the Committee on captioning, signing and translation of the proceedings of the Legislature. This information is appended to the Report.

The Committee believes in principle that it is important that these services should be provided to the public. The Committee proposes to recommend that the Board of Internal Economy implement these services.

Your Committee recommends that:

34. The Board of Internal Economy implement the captioning, signing and simultaneous translation in the French and English languages of the televised proceedings of the Legislature.



## Summary of Recommendations

Your Committee recommends that:

1. A television broadcast unit be established as an office of the Office of the Assembly to record, reproduce and provide a continuous unedited transmission of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly beginning with the Speaker's Parade and Prayers and ending with the adjournment of the House. (Page 3.)
2. The television broadcast system to be installed in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario be a 'state of the art' broadcast quality system similar to the system installed at the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. (Page 6.)
3. The television coverage of legislative proceedings should be an accurate, factual and coherent record of the proceedings of the Assembly which is understandable to the viewing public, and which is subject to guidelines set out in Schedule "A", and to the instructions of the Speaker or of a committee of the House designated to monitor and advise on the service. (Page 7.)
4. The name, constituency, portfolio and political affiliation, as the case may be, of a member be shown periodically on the screen while the member is speaking, and that factual information be shown in print across the bottom of the screen to explain the proceedings. (Page 8.)
5. The Office of the Clerk prepare, in consultation with TVOntario and the legislative television broadcast unit, a video cassette as well as a brochure

explaining the proceedings of the House and these be made available to interested parties throughout the Province. (Page 8.)

6. In order to ensure that staff illness, death or resignation does not adversely affect the operation of the television broadcast system, sufficient staff should be hired as full-time employees of the Office of the Assembly to operate the television broadcast system. (Pages 9-10.)
7. A Director of Broadcasting, to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the television broadcast unit, be retained as soon as possible to work with persons developing and installing the television system and with a committee of the House authorized to act as an advisory body during and after the installation of the system. (Page 10.)
8. It is imperative that the lighting system to be installed produces the minimal amount of glare and discomfort. The lighting system should be similar to that in place in the Legislative Chamber in Regina. The installation of any alternate lighting system should not delay the installation of the Legislature's television broadcast system nor should it affect the historical and architectural integrity of the Legislative Chamber. (Pages 11-12.)
9. An improved ventilation system should be installed during any general restoration of the Legislative Chamber. (Page 12.)
10. The Hansard sound system be evaluated to determine if it is adequate to provide a high quality sound feed required for television broadcasting. (Page 12.)

11. Microphones be installed in the Legislative Chamber to record floor sound.  
(Page 13.)
12. Provision should be made to install equipment capable of playing music from audio tapes to accompany visual information displayed following the adjournment on each sitting day. (Page 13.)
13. A minimum of five remote-controlled cameras, the majority of which are microprocessor-controlled, be installed in the Legislative Chamber. These cameras should be compact professional grade, high quality, television cameras. (Page 13.)
14. At least two spare or back-up cameras be purchased and maintained in case of mechanical or other failures involving cameras installed in the Legislative Chamber or a committee room. (Page 14.)
15. Closed-circuit monitors be installed in the Government and Opposition Lobbies and in the Legislative Press Gallery offices, and that television programme signals initially be provided to the offices of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of any other recognized Party, Party caucus offices, and the Clerk. (Page 15.)
16. That closed-circuit monitors be placed in the front Lobby. (Page 15.)
17. Closed-circuit monitors be installed in a room in the Parliament Building where visitors can observe the proceedings and be provided with an audio and/or visual presentation of the work of the Legislature and its members.  
(Page 15.)



18. The terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions be broadened to permit it to act as an advisory body during the installation of the television broadcast system and to authorize the Committee to conduct reviews, at least on an annual basis, of the televising of the legislative proceedings and of the guidelines with respect thereto, and/or such matters or concerns with respect to the system as may be referred to the Committee by the Speaker. (Page 16.)
19. A television broadcast system be in place and operational during the Second Session of the Thirty-third Parliament. (Page 17.)
20. The placement of desks in the Legislative Chamber should ensure that no member is placed at a disadvantage in terms of television coverage and every attempt should be made to resolve the question of seating in time for the start-up of the television broadcast system. This matter should not delay the installation of a television broadcast system. (Pages 17-18.)
21. Every effort be made to install television cameras in recessed wall openings to preserve the appearance and the historic features of the Legislative Chamber. The Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions should be consulted on all major alterations to the Chamber relative to the installation of the television broadcast system. (Pages 18-19.)
22. There be a trial period of at least one month before the signal of the legislative proceedings is distributed to the broadcast media in order that both technical and procedural aspects of the system may be evaluated. (Page 19.)

23. A television control centre capable of accommodating all of the television and audio and recording equipment and necessary staff be located in an area which is adjacent to the Chamber. (Page 20.)
24. The Legislative Press Gallery continue to have access to the Speaker's Gallery to televise the proceedings of the House, subject to the current guidelines established by the Speaker. (Page 24.)
25. A permanent television facility, similar to that installed in the Legislative Chamber, be installed in the Amethyst Room and that it be operated according to the guidelines established for the coverage of proceedings in the Chamber. (Page 26.)
26. The proceedings of any standing or select committee may be recorded and broadcast by agreement of the House leaders. (Page 26.)
27. Television cameras from television organizations continue to have access to public meetings of standing or select committees, but that such proceedings be filmed from fixed positions. (Page 26.)
28. The Board of Internal Economy invite TVOntario to put forward proposals to achieve the Committee's goal of ensuring that the legislative television broadcast signal is distributed as widely as possible. (Page 28.)
29. Cable companies be encouraged to pick up the signal and broadcast, preferably live, the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee believes that by doing so the cable companies would be

performing a valuable public service and helping to communicate to the citizens of Ontario what goes on in their Parliament. (Page 28.)

30. A distribution service of the recorded proceedings shall be made available free of charge to members, senior officials of the House, cable companies, educational institutions, and groups or individuals authorized by the Speaker upon written request, supplying their own tapes. (Page 29.)
31. TVOntario investigate broadcasting live the oral Question Period from Queen's Park each day the House meets as part of the development of an educational programme dealing with Ontario's government, politics and history. (Page 30.)
32. The television broadcast unit make three copies of the televised proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in the Chamber or in a committee thereof. The Clerk of the Assembly shall ensure that one copy is deposited with the Archivist of Ontario after the prorogation of each Session. A second copy shall be deposited with the Director of the Legislative Library on a daily basis. Access to these tapes shall be in accordance with procedures established by the Archivist or the Director, as the case may be. Following the prorogation of a Session, the material on the third copy shall be erased. (Pages 30-31.)
33. The tapes of all legislative proceedings should be time-coded. (Page 31.)
34. The Board of Internal Economy implement the captioning, signing and simultaneous translation in the French and English languages of the televised proceedings of the Legislature. (Page 32.)



SCHEDULE "A"

TELEVISION GUIDELINES

The guidelines for the television coverage of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario are as follows:

1. The television coverage of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly should be an accurate, factual and coherent record of the legislative proceedings which is understandable to the viewing public and which does not dramatize or editorialize such proceedings.
2. The guidelines shall be enforced by the Speaker. Specific concerns of members regarding the televising of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly should not be raised in the House. Such concerns should be raised in private with the Speaker. The television guidelines shall stand referred to the Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions. The Committee shall conduct periodic reviews of the televising of the legislative proceedings and consider such matters or concerns as may be referred to the Committee by the Speaker, and it shall report its opinions and observations upon any matters referred to it.
3. The proceedings in the Legislative Chamber beginning with the Speaker's Parade and Prayers until the adjournment of the Assembly shall be recorded and may be broadcast. Proceedings of any standing or select committee may be recorded and broadcast by agreement of the House leaders.
4. Only the member who is on his or her feet and has been recognized by the Speaker shall be recorded by the audio-visual cameras.

5. The initial shot of the member shall be of his or her head-and-shoulders, or medium close-up shot showing some of the members who are seated on either side of the speaking member.
6. When the Speaker is standing, the camera facing the Speaker shall be the one which will be active. This overview of the Chamber shall be the view shown when the Speaker is on his feet and between close-up shots of the member speaking or during recorded divisions in the Chamber.
7. In Committees of the Whole House, the overview of the Chamber shall be used when the Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House is speaking or during a division in Committee.
8. When the Speaker or the Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House is giving a ruling or calling the House or Committee to order, the initial shot of the Speaker or the Chairman shall be a head-and-shoulders close-up.
9. Except as provided in paragraph 10, coverage of the legislative proceedings should be limited to the strict confines of the floor of the House and cameras should not deliberately record shots of public interruptions or demonstrations.
10. Medium close-up shots may be taken of any distinguished visitors sitting in the Speaker's Gallery and introduced by the Speaker.
11. Applause shots may be taken, however care should be taken to ensure that the decorum of the Chamber is maintained.

12. The name, constituency, portfolio and political affiliation of a member, as the case may be, shall be shown periodically on the screen while he or she is speaking.
13. Factual information shall be shown in print across the bottom of the screen from time to time to explain the proceedings. Such information should be shown only after consultation with the Clerks-at-the-Table.
14. The audio-video tapes which are produced by the Legislative Assembly may be shown by television stations and/or cable casters live or by means of recordings.
15. Copies of the audio-video tapes of the Legislative Assembly may be obtained from the Director of Broadcasting. Access to this service shall be according to the following priority: members of the Legislative Assembly, members of the press, officers and officials of the House, and the general public. This service shall be provided free of charge but it is the responsibility of each person to provide his or her audio-video tape and to pay for any delivery charge.
16. At the end of each Sessional day, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall ensure that the complete audio-visual record of the day's proceedings is deposited with the Director of the Legislative Library. Access to these tapes shall be in accordance with procedures established by the Director of the Legislative Library.
17. After prorogation of each Session, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall ensure that the complete audio-visual record of the Session is



deposited with the Archivist of Ontario. Access to these tapes shall be in accordance with procedures established by the Archivist of Ontario.

APPENDIX "A"

LEGISLATIVE TELEVISION IN SASKATCHEWAN: SUMMARY

Initial Cost: \$1,510,000

Annual Operating Cost  
(including distribution): \$ 395,000

Staffing: 1 Director of Broadcasting  
2 Electronics Technicians/Operators  
1 Audio Switcher (Hansard employee)

Installation Date: December 1982

Operation Date: March 17, 1983

Distribution: The signal is distributed to  
Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton,  
Melville, Moose Jaw, Swift Current,  
Prince Albert, North Battleford,  
Weyburn and Estevan (approximately  
50% of the population). News clip  
coverage and coverage of special  
events is available across the  
province via the commercial  
television stations.

Main Features: Five Cameras  
--three fully automated  
microprocessor remote controlled  
cameras.  
--two manual remote control cameras.  
  
Four videotape recorders (3/4"  
format).  
  
One character generator (to  
superimpose Member's name and  
constituency on the screen).

EXHIBIT No. 10

FILED ON 1985 08 13

Operation:

When the Speaker recognizes a Member, the audio switcher activates the Member's microphone. This action initiates a search of the memory bank by the micro processor for a pre-programmed shot. Within two seconds the appropriate camera will tilt, pan, zoom and focus on the Member who has the floor.

Equipment:

All professional broadcast quality  
-Ikegami cameras -- (Japan)  
-Schneider lenses -- (West Germany)  
-Vinten microprocessor and servo units -- (Britain)  
-Electronic equipment -- (Canada)  
-Sony audio and video recorders

Design & Implementation:

A team of local engineering, electrical and acoustical consultants under the aegis of Ritenburg and Associates Ltd. of Regina, together with Applied Electronics of Toronto.

Archival Record:

The complete televised record of the Legislature is preserved by the Saskatchewan Archives. The audio-visual record may be viewed by the public at the Archives.



R

RITENBURG &  
ASSOCIATES LTD.

EXHIBIT No. 7

1985 08 13

20 ALBERT ST 54P 2S8

REGINA

CONSULTING

FILED ON

TELEPHONE (306) 588-1303

SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TELEVISION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

JULY 10, 1981

## SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

This television facility shall be capable of technically originating, recording and reproducing all proceedings within the Legislative Assembly.

The system shall be a complete color television production and video recording facility. Operation of the television system shall be technically integrated with the Hansard and Sound System already in operation within the Legislative Assembly.

Five remotely controlled, high quality television cameras shall be installed in the Assembly Area, in an unobtrusive manner. Remote control of three of these cameras shall be accomplished by a microprocessor, programmed with predetermined camera shots, controlling sophisticated, motorized camera mounts. All primary movements of these cameras shall be initiated by the switching panel now used to select Member's microphones. A manual remote control system shall be provided as a contingent to the three automated cameras, as well as for the two additional cameras, to perform camera orientation and shot selection functions.

Video and audio recording facilities shall employ automated functions, as described later in this document, to a maximum practical degree, to provide for simplified operator functions. Video recording shall be performed by four high quality, color, videotape recorders, in a 3/4" U-matic professional format, of quality compatible with the commercial broadcasting and cable television industries.

Appropriate facilities shall be provided, to monitor, process, control, distribute, duplicate, and technically evaluate all television program and recorded materials originating from the Legislative Television System.

The system shall be capable of providing video and audio signals directly to videotape, to designated areas within the Legislative Building, as well as simultaneously feeding any outside broadcast and cable television services, as required. These outside program services may be fed, broadband or carrier, via coaxial cable, video pair, microwave, satellite, or any other transmission medium, as provided by Sask Tel.

The television cameras shall be a compact professional grade, of high quality, three plumbicon type, featuring high technical stability and the highest reliability, as available in the most recent state of the art. These cameras shall be completed, with suitable motorized lenses to complement the production requirements of the Legislative Assembly.

Each camera shall be mounted on a multi-controlled tilt and pan transport pedestal. Three of these transport heads will be high quality, heavy duty and fully servo mechanized. They shall be of recent design, employing the most current servo mechanism technology. These transport heads will be manufactured by the Vinten Company in England, and shall be of a design recently developed for the British Broadcasting Corporation. It is the intent, in this design, to utilize three of these pedestals in a fully automated configuration.

Two additional cameras shall be mounted on industrial, heavy duty grade tilt and pan pedestals, with manual remote control, accessible to the television operations personnel, in the television operation control center.

Each of the automated heads shall be capable of storing, in memory, ninety-nine shots. Each shot sequence shall contain control information relating to the tilt and pan camera positions, also information relating to the zoom and focus controls of that particular shot sequence.

Control logic has been previously provided in the existing sound switching system, which will inform a camera shot memory bank, in the microprocessor, as to which microphone has been selected. The memory bank will subsequently be searched by the microprocessor, which will find in an address, the shot parameters that will be required to cover a particular speaking Member in the Legislative Assembly.

When the Hansard audio operator selects a microphone of a particular Member of the Legislature, the automated system will provide logic control, which will initiate the following sequence of events. First, the appropriate camera shot information will be called up to tilt and pan the appropriate cameras to a particular speaking Member location in the Chamber. The microprocessor memory will then inform the zoom lens to zoom to a preprogrammed focal length and focus to that particular shot. After this series of events, all within micro-seconds of time, the video production switcher will be caused to automatically select the output of that particular camera to program use and subsequent video recording. The logic information contained in the memory will then tell the microprocessor to source an address in the character generator bank. This character bank shall be capable of storing one hundred and fifty pages of alpha numeric information. This address shall contain in alpha numeric notation, the name of the MLA and the constituency represented. This information will then be superimposed, or keyed, over the video displaying the Member addressing the Assembly. After a predesignated time, the alpha numeric, superimposed information will fade out, leaving only the picture of the speaking Member. The alpha numeric titling may be colorized at the discretion of the television operations personnel.



It is the intention that this system be programmed so that two camera shots shall be designated to each microphone location. For example, the microprocessor would delegate one camera with a longer, waist to head shot of the MLA or Officer of the Assembly. The second camera would display a tighter, head and shoulders shot of that same Member. The longer shot would go immediately to program use, while the tighter shot would be a dissolve or cut to, at a later predetermined time in this sequence of events. Manual selection override, at the discretion of the television operations personnel, shall always be an available option.

Five inputs shall be designated for video cameras located in the Assembly. Two additional inputs shall be color test signal inputs, which shall be required for program leader and test applications. An additional input shall be provided, as contingent for future application.

Two selection bus routes shall be provided in the production switcher, which shall feed into a digitally controlled automatic dissolve unit. This dissolve unit will be controlled by the microprocessor. There shall be two rates of dissolve speed, which shall provide operator selective control. An additional manual dissolve override shall also be provided.

A third bus on the production switcher shall be for preview and direct feed purposes. Any video source may be manually selected to the preview monitor and to the program output, in the event of automated dissolve failure or operator override selection. All switching in this mode shall be in a fully vertical, interval mode.

In either automatic or manual mode, the selected video signal shall feed into a downstream keyer, which will provide the alpha numeric, superimposed, graphic information, previously discussed. This downstream keyer shall have the facility to be colorized in a variety of primary colors, at the discretion of the television operations personnel, on the manual control panel.

Additional back up shall be provided in the automatic video switcher, that in the event of a failure of the downstream keyer, the video operator shall have manual control to select the preview bus directly. Selection to program line shall render the switcher as a directly vertical interval device. This override function shall be used only with direct intent, by the operator, to override the automated features of the video switcher.

Each video tape recorder shall have associated with it an eight input switch bank, allowing the operator to select any video source, as illustrated. Any video tape recorder may be selectable to feed the time base corrector. The output of the time base corrector may be routed to any other video tape recorder, to facilitate convenient and accurate video tape copies through the time base corrector. It shall be possible to feed any of the four video tape recorders to any distribution or transmission facility, as previously discussed.

A fifth position, on the routing switcher, shall be provided, as a high quality, master color monitor, complete with technical evaluation vector and waveform monitoring. Associated with this position, shall also be audio monitoring facilities. The second output of this bus shall go to the waveform monitor, Channel B, on the operator's console. This shall be for contingent purposes.

The sixth bus of the routing switcher shall feed the R.F. modulator. This modulator shall operate on a designated VHF channel. All video sources, within this television system, may be directed into this modulator for the purpose of providing television programming to designated areas within the Legislative Building.

The seventh bus shall be for applications of providing television programming to Sask Tel for distribution to cable television and commercial television applications.

The eighth bus on the routing switcher shall provide access into and out of the time base corrector. This route and device shall provide stable video signal processing access to all recording facilities.

It is intended that the main operations console contain only essential items necessary for program production control. Human engineering of this console shall assure simplicity and efficiency of this operations centre. Preview monitors of all video sources shall be displayed before the operator, to assure ease of operation, in a manner similar to a commercial production facility.

Five camera control units shall be placed in an accessible manner. To provide for camera shot embellishment and correction, camera pedestal manual controls shall be provided in this operating console.

A character generator keyboard, and a cartridge audio tape recorder, shall also be part of the production console.

Four video tape recorders shall be rack mounted on slide out trays. Associated with each video tape recorder shall be an audio follow video input switcher, and a monochrome video monitor. Also located in the video recorder racks, and directly associated, shall be all terminal and processing equipment, designed for ease and accuracy of video tape recorder operation.

Each video tape recorder shall have associated a mini-cue radio monitor, to evaluate audio for a video tape segment search and play application. Further high quality audio monitoring applications would be switched up to the main audio evaluation monitor, as selected by the routing switcher.

Video tape editing and duplication shall be accomplished via the routing switcher between any of the four video tape machines. Each machine shall be capable of assemble and insert edits. It is anticipated, however, that no insert edits shall be required other than for possible program title or program credit applications.



Various designated areas, such as the Speaker's and Clerk's Offices, shall be provided with television program signals and color monitors.





APPENDIX "C"

2180 Yonge Street    Mailing Address  
Toronto, Ontario    Box 200, Station Q  
(416) 484-2600    Toronto, Ontario  
Telex 06-23547    Canada M4T 2T1

19 August 1985

Mr. A. Smirle Forsyth  
Room 104  
Table Clerks  
Office of the Clerk  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A2

Dear Mr. Forsyth,

When TVOntario representatives recently appeared before the Procedural Affairs Committee, we agreed to provide members with certain information. I am happy to transmit data on closed captioning, simultaneous French translation and some technical information.

Captioning can be open or closed. The open mode allows all television viewers to read a text corresponding with the words being spoken, and no additional equipment is required at the receiving location. In the closed mode viewers need a decoder to have the text appear. Both methods of captioning existing taped programmes cost approximately \$3,000 per hour plus tape and transcript charges. More in keeping with Committee members interests, live or real time closed captioning costs \$5,000 per hour. To the best of my knowledge only one person is capable of this extraordinary feat and can only work for up to half an hour at a stretch. Therefore, other people would have to be trained in this remarkable skill.

Generally, the cost of translating a programme into French captioning is \$1,000 per hour plus 50% of the original captioning charge. Therefore, a one-hour tape programme that was closed captioned for approximately \$3,000 would cost an additional \$2,500 to produce with French captioning. If one wished to produce a dual mode (i.e. English and French) live captioning, the cost would be \$8,500 per hour. For more information on these charges, I would recommend contacting the Canadian Captioning Development Agency, 95 Barber Greene Road, Don Mills. The phone number is (416) 445-7022.

**RECEIVED**

AUG 27 1985



Signing for the deaf community, whereby the hands and torso of an individual proficient in sign language appear in a portion of a television screen, costs \$30 for the first hour, then \$20 for each hour after that. The people who provide this service cannot work more than about an hour at a stretch, so several people proficient in sign language would be required. For more information, you may wish to contact the Canadian Hearing Society at 964-9595. Mr. Paul Cowley is the person in charge.

Simultaneous French translation could be achieved by contacting a number of companies which appear under translators in the Yellow pages. My preliminary inquiries indicate that three translators need to be hired in order to relieve each other every twenty minutes or so. The fee appears to be \$500 per eight-hour day per translator, with a minimum charge of \$300. For more information I suggest you contact Mr. Laszlo Bastyovansky at the CBC, because he has been involved in the televising of the Federal parliament.

With regard to technical matters, without knowing the exact route Committee members wish to go, and not knowing exactly when technical equipment or services might be needed, it is difficult to give you exact figures. However, I am pleased to give you an overview of the costs we estimate you will want to consider. In order to get the signal of Queen's Park proceedings to an uplink, there would be a \$15,000 per year rental. Uplinking to the satellite would be \$150,000 per year. To secure backup capability, so that your service would not be interrupted due to technical failure, would require an additional \$90,000 per year. Conversely, if you wish to purchase instead of rent the necessary uplink equipment, we estimate it would cost about \$500,000. The rental for the half transponder on a satellite would be about \$1,000,000 per year. The down-link equipment for those cable companies, not already equipped to receive Anik C, would be approximately \$10,000 plus the installation charges. A dish, receive terminal, a pre-amplifier and modulator would be needed, and some cable companies may have some or all of this equipment.

Finally, it should be pointed out that if TVOntario is going to hold the CRTC licence for the distribution of this service, it will be necessary to route the signal through our master control room before uplinking. This would be necessary to satisfy CRTC requirements for quality control and logging.

I hope this information is of use to the Committee, and if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours truly,



W. Allan Bonner  
Manager,  
Ontario Policy Relations

WAB/jf

c.c. Tom Mitchinson

## APPENDIX "D"

### WITNESSES

Tuesday, 6 August

From the House of Commons:

Jack Ellis, M.P.

Benno Frieson, M.P.

Philip Laundry  
Clerk Assistant

Wednesday, 7 August

From the House of Commons:

Ivan Barclay  
Chief, Broadcasting Service

Thursday, 8 August

From the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan:

The Honourable Herb Swan, M.L.A.  
Speaker

E.B. Shillington, M.L.A.

Gwenn Ronyk  
Deputy Clerk

Craig James  
Clerk Assistant

Gary Ward  
Director of Television Services

Terry White  
C.B.C. - Regina

Tuesday, 13 August

The Honourable Hugh Edighoffer, M.P.P.  
Speaker  
Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Rosemary Cino  
President  
Legislative Press Gallery

Guy Côté  
Vice-President  
Legislative Press Gallery

Wednesday, 14 August

William G. Ormsby  
Archivist of Ontario

Jeffrey Kofman  
Global Communications Limited

E.J. Stuebing  
Vice-President, News and Public Affairs  
CFTO-TV Limited

Dan Rath  
CHCH-TV System

Thursday, 15 August

From the Ontario Educational Communications Authority:

John Radford  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Shapiro  
Director of Corporate Relations

Allan Bonner  
Manager, Ontario Policy Relations

Mike Boyko  
Manager, Systems Engineering







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